

## BASIC FIRE CONTROL COURSE

4162

(No.13 July 2014)

The Academy training for employees hired to fill permanent FFII and FAE positions is called Basic Fire Control (BFC). Prior to December 31, 2006 the BFC was divided into four modules:

BASIC FIRE CONTROL	
Module 1A:	One week of orientation/basic administrative training
Module 1B:	Three weeks of fire fighting skills
Module 2A:	Three weeks of driver/operator training
Module 2B:	Three weeks of wildland instruction and company officer skills application

Beginning September 2005 BFC 1A/1B modules were replaced with the six-week Firefighter Academy (FFA). In February 2006 BFC 2A/2B modules were replaced with the six-week Company Officer Academy (COA). The FFA and COA Academies may be taken out of sequence to meet departmental hiring needs, but permanent hires who have not attended either academy, must attend both consecutively.

The charts below outline the Academy training requirements for FFII, FAE, and HFEO employees. The employees' tenure (limited term or permanent) and prior training determines the employee's Academy training requirements.

Appointment to Limited Term Fire Fighter II	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	67 hour FFI
67 hour FFI training	No Academy required

Appointment to Permanent Fire Fighter II	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	67 hour FFI, FFA
67 hour FFI training	FFA

Appointment to Fire Apparatus Engineer	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	67 hour FFI, FFA, COA
67 hour FFI	FFA, COA
FFM	COA
BFF	COA
1A, 1B	COA
FFA	COA
BFEO	FFA, COA
2A	FFA, COA
1A, 1B and BFEO	COA
1A, 1B and 2A	COA
FFM and 2A	None
BFF and 2A	None
COA	FFA

Appointment to Fire Apparatus Engineer	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	67 hour FFI, FFA, COA
67 hour FFI	FFA, COA
FFM	COA
BFF	COA
1A, 1B	COA
FFA	COA
BFEO	FFA, COA
2A	FFA, COA
1A, 1B and BFEO	COA
1A, 1B and 2A	COA
FFM and 2A	None
BFF and 2A	None
COA	FFA

Appointment to Fire Apparatus Engineer	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	67 hour FFI, FFA, COA
67 hour FFI	FFA, COA
FFM	COA
BFF	COA
1A, 1B	COA
FFA	COA
BFEO	FFA, COA
2A	FFA, COA
1A, 1B and BFEO	COA
1A, 1B and 2A	COA
FFM and 2A	None
BFF and 2A	None
COA	FFA

Appointment to Heavy Fire Equipment Operator	
Employee's previous training	Required training
None	Basic Firefighter, FFA, COA, HFEO
Basic Firefighter	FFA, COA, HFEO
1A, 1B	COA, HFEO
FFA	COA, HFEO
COA	FFA, HFEO

## **BFC 2A CHALLENGE COURSE**

**4162.1**

(No. 6 February 2007)

In order to avoid duplication of training, the BFC 2A Challenge was developed to test the skills of Limited Term FAE's who had taken similar Academy BFEO training. This course is no longer given, but students who successfully completed this course have met the equivalency of having attended BFC 2A.

## **BFC1A, 1B, 2A, 2B MODULES**

**4162.2**

(No. 6 February 2007)

The BFC 1A/1B/2A/2B modules were implemented between February 2001 and December 2006. Apprentices that have completed these modules will be working from the February 2001 Fire Fighter II and April 2002 Fire Apparatus Engineer Progress Notebooks.

Apprentices assigned to these Progress Notebooks will be tested using the written and performance testing standards established in this handbook.

## **FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY**

**4162.3**

(No. 6 February 2007)

The Firefighter Academy is a six week course concentrating on structural firefighting skills and rescue operations. Courses in the FFA include SCBA, ladders, hose practices and equipment, live fire evolutions, search and rescue, RIC firefighter rescue, confined space awareness, low-angle rescue, vehicle extrication, forcible entry and ventilation and other firefighter related skills.

The testing for the FFA consists of Category I & II written exams, Category I performance-based testing, and skills certification as approved by SubJAC.

## **FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE**

**4162.4**

(No.13 July 2014)

The Firefighter Challenge (FFC) is a two week course that allows an apprentice to challenge the FFA based on previous training in the area of firefighter skills. The candidates selected to attend an FFC must be reachable for permanent hire from the FFII or FAE list and possess the appropriate prerequisites. The prerequisites, minimum required certificates, and documentation for qualifying to attend the FFC is as follows.

1. CAL FIRE 67-hour Basic Fire Fighter or its equivalent
2. Current CPR certification
3. Current EMS certification
4. HAZMAT First Responder Operational
5. Current SCBA fit testing certification for MSA Ultra-elite face piece

In addition, FFC candidates must have been previously verified to have successfully completed one of the following prerequisites: 1) have been issued an Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Fighter I Certificate or 2) have successfully completed an OSFM Fire Fighter I Academy at a California Community College or at one of the OSFM approved Fire Fighter I Local or Regional Academies. The verification of these prerequisites will be conducted by the Department's Examination Unit.

Employees who meet the criteria for taking the Firefighter Challenge will be given only one opportunity to successfully complete it. All performance and written exams must be passed with 80%. Cadets hired to attend the FFC will be permanent hires, but successful completion of the FFC will not be a condition of employment.

Failure to successfully complete this course will not result in punitive action nor is it subject to appeal. Any cadet failing to successfully complete the FFC will remain employed by the Department and scheduled to attend the next available FFA (six week) offered by the Department.

Cadets successfully completing the FFC will be recognized by the Department as meeting the training requirements set forth in the FFA. However, cadets attending the FFC will not be given any OSFM equivalencies that come with attendance in an FFA.

## **COMPANY OFFICER ACADEMY**

**4162.5**

(No. 6 February 2007)

The Company Officer Academy is a six week course concentrating on company officer skills. Topics in the COA include Intermediate Fire Behavior, wildland strategy and tactics, I-Zone, pumping and driving operations, off road operations, preventive maintenance, all-risk company officer incident management and other company officer and administrative skills.

The testing for the COA consists of Category I & II written exams, Category I & II performance-based testing and skills certifications as approved by SubJAC.

## **WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**4162.6**

(No. 6 February 2007)

Academy training subjects are identified as Category I, II, or Skills Certification. Category I subjects must be passed with a 80 percent minimum score.

- Category I is defined as: Knowledge and skills essential to the safety of employees, their crews and the public. Lack of knowledge or skills in these subjects would substantially increase the risk of injury, death, or serious property damage.

Students who fail a Category I examination will be afforded a second opportunity to successfully pass the test. The student will be given precise information as to how they failed and be tested no sooner than the day following notification. A second failure of a Category I examination will result in failure of the course, termination of the Apprentice Agreement and rejection during probation.

Category II subjects must be passed with a 80 percent average score for both the performance and the written examinations combined.

- Category II is defined as: Knowledge and skills needed for successful performance of specific operations and evolutions or as a building block for more technical training given in subsequent classes. Tasks in this category normally entail less risk of injury, death, or serious property damage than for Category I subjects.

Failure to pass Category II written and performance examinations with a combined overall score of 80 percent will result in failure of the Course, termination of the Apprentice Agreement and rejection during probation. No retests of Category II subjects will be permitted.

Skills Certification subjects are not scored on the point system. Instead, instructors adhere to a formal process for certifying the proficiency of an apprentice to perform a fundamental or basic skill. If the student does not show aptitude, they will participate in a program of remediation until the skill is proficiently performed; or it is determined that the student is unable to develop the ability to safely demonstrate the skill.

Failure to demonstrate proficiency in a Skill Certification based on the documentation provided by an instructor and with the concurrence of the Director of Fire Training will result in the student's failure of the Course, termination of the Apprentice Agreement and rejection during probation.

Non-probationary, Blanketed-In employees attending BFC will be scored under the Category I, II, and Skills Certification system outlined above. However, failures of Category I or II exams may not be considered failure of the Academy. Academy staff will document the employee's particular deficiencies so that remediation training can be administered at the Unit level.

Under rare circumstances, Blanketed-In employees join CAL FIRE employment as probationary employees. Under such circumstances, the Blanketed-In probationary employee who fails either a Category I or II examination will not be subject to termination of the Apprentice Agreement or rejection during probation. Academy staff will document the employee's particular deficiencies so that remediation training can be administered at the Unit level.

## **HEAVY FIRE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR ACADEMY**

**4162.7**

(No. 13 July 2014)

The Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) Academy is a course concentrating on heavy fire equipment operator skills. The class is ideally taken after having attended the Company Officer Academy.

Topics in the HFEO include basic firing, soils recognition, safety and survival, HFEO field operations, dozer strategy and tactics, working with inmates, swamper proficiency, air brakes, fire suppression repair, driving skills and other heavy fire equipment operator skills.

The testing for the HFEO consists of Category I and II written exams and Category I and II performance-based testing and skills certifications as approved by SubJAC.

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